

OGC HAS REVIEWED.

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Journal

Office of Legislative Counsel

Tuesday - 15 March 1955

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25X1A 1. Mr. Monagan, of the Plans Division/G-2, Department of the Army, called OCD regarding the Agency's position on S. 750, a bill to amend the Foreign Agents Registration Act. At OCD's request, I called Mr. Monagan back. He said that G-2 was attempting to formulate its position on the bill and wanted to query whether we had considered the possibility that, if this legislation were passed, foreign countries might pass similar retaliatory legislation which might prove a matter of harassment to U. S. intelligence. After discussing the matter with Mr. [REDACTED] of Staff C, I informed Mr. Monagan that similar legislation had been on the books for some time without any retaliatory action, and that we felt that the possibility of such action was comparatively slight and a risk which we would have to take. I told him we were hopeful that this legislation would pass. (This legislation has been submitted as an Administration bill by the Department of Justice, and its provisions regarding CIA were included at the request of Staff C).

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2. Mr. Ashcraft expressed concern regarding the CIA provisions in S. 750 along the same lines as those expressed by Mr. Monagan of G-2. (See item No. 1 in Journal of 15 March). Mr. Ashcraft underlined the additional thought that these sections might render it difficult for the Contact Division in administering NSCID No. 7. Mr. Alberti of ONI had also been in touch with Mr. Ashcraft on this subject. It was pointed out to Mr. Ashcraft that the subsection which was causing him the greatest concern was merely a re-enactment of the present statute which had been law since 1950 and that we did not believe that the additional subsection which was being added would in any way add to his burden. Subsequently Mr. Monagan called me to state that he had heard that our Mr. Ashcraft was concerned about the bill, but I assured him that Mr. Ashcraft's fears had been allayed. Mr. Ashcraft subsequently told me that Mr. Alberti had pointed out that when this section had been included in the Internal Security Act of 1950 it had been the most innocuous section in a highly controversial omnibus bill which had been vetoed by the President. Now, however, it was a smaller bill which might draw more attention and unfavorable comment. Mr. Ashcraft assured Mr. Alberti that all efforts would be taken to keep the hearing as quiet as possible. It should also be noted that the Counsel of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee which had opposed the new section of the bill no longer held that position, which might make for easier sledding. 16 Mar. '55

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